

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING

WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17th, 2015

PLACE: West Lafayette Public Library / Walnut Room

PRESENT:

Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Kathleen Mills
Troy Harris	Jim Knapp	Andrew Hirsch
Larry Preo	Kumares Sinha	Doug Payne
Boudewijn van Gelder		

VISITORS:

Erin Cooper	Ed Garrison	Craig Kielbasa
Charles Tritschler	Lauren Bruce	

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order at 5:02pm and determined there was a quorum.

Ms. Burch made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting. Ms. Mills seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Craig Kielbasa who lives at 416 West Stadium Avenue, was present and came before the commission to speak about an intersection within the City that he was concerned about. Mr. Kielbasa then explained that he was involved in an accident at the intersection of Grant Street and Meridian Street. Mr. Kielbasa stated that he and two friends were riding bicycles on Grant Street when a car driving on Meridian Street failed to yield to the stop sign and hit two of the three bicyclists.

Mr. Kielbasa stated that the drivers view appeared to be obstructed by the trees at the corner of Grant Street and Meridian Street.

Ms. Lauren Bruce who lives at 315 Meridian Street was present and stated that the visibility at the intersection that Mr. Kielbasa was referring to is very poor.

Mr. Buck stated that in a recent study done by the Engineering Department, the above mentioned intersection was identified as having a fairly significant number of accidents. Mr. Buck also stated that this intersection was one of the reasons that the City requested funds

from the West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission. If these funds are approved, then the City plans to do a larger safety/improvement project for all of Meridian Street in the future.

Professor Sinha stated that the Traffic Commission would look into the tree at the corner of the intersection in question.

Mr. Charles Tritschler who lives at 304 Meridian Street was present, and thanked Vicki Burch for her commitment to the City Council & Traffic Commission.

Mr. Tritschler stated that he asked Deputy Chief Harris to look at a more broad view of the Meridian Street Study. In doing so, Deputy Chief Harris provided Mr. Tritschler with a list of the traffic stops within Meridian Street in the last year. Mr. Tritschler stated that the study conducted by the Engineering Department mainly focused on the averages for Meridian Street. Mr. Tritschler stated that the neighborhood is more concerned with the more significant incidents that occur less often.

Mr. Tritschler stated that he was concerned about the lack of sidewalks within the City Streets. Professor Sinha stated that the Traffic Commission has always had sidewalks in mind, and that the City continues to add sidewalks as the funds are available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Burch stated that she did not run for re-election with the City Council so this would be her last Traffic Commission Meeting. Ms. Burch stated that she suggested to the Mayor that it was not necessary to have a council representative on the commission in the future, however that adding a representative from the Fire Department would be beneficial.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking at Mailboxes: Mr. Ed Garrison came before the commission to provide the observations & findings by the Engineers Office when studying this particular issue.

Mr. Garrison stated that the city code states that in regarding to mailboxes next to driveways, there is 15 foot of protected space on either side of the driveway.

Mr. Garrison explained that houses positioned on corner lots appear to have the most issues with cars parking in front of mailboxes. There is currently no city code stating that the city would paint or have protected parking areas for these houses.

Mr. Garrison suggested homeowners position mailboxes next to the driveway to allow easier accessibility for the mail carrier.

Professor Van Gelder stated that over the years, he has conducted tests with the mail carrier and when allotted 15 feet, the mail carrier could not pull into the space and get out in a safe manner. Professor Van Gelder stated that when he allowed 20 feet, the mail carrier was able to navigate into the space, deliver the mail, and pull back out onto the street without problems.

Professor Sinha asked Mr. Buck if the City had a chance to see what other cities do in these situations, to which Mr. Buck stated that the Engineering Department currently plans to continue researching what other communities do.

Professor Sinha thanked Deputy Chief Chris Leroux for all of his years of service to the Traffic Commission and to the City, and welcomed Deputy Chief Troy Harris to the Traffic Commission.

2016 MEETING INFORMATION:

- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 19, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 15, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Elm Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, May 17, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Elm Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 19, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September, 20 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November, 15 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.M. Buck".

David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

DMB/ec